

Message Text

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ACTION EA-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 PM-07 NSC-10 SPC-03 SS-20 RSC-01 L-03

PRS-01 DODE-00 CIAE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 DLOS-06 COA-02

DRC-01 /079 W

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R 130830Z NOV 73

FM AMEMBASSY JAKARTA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9559

INFO AMEMBASSY KUALA LUMPUR

AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE

AMEMBASSY TOKYO

CINCPAC

C O N F I D E N T I A L JAKARTA 13343

CINCPAC FOR POLAD

TOKYO FOR ASST SEC DESIGNATE INGERSOLL AND AMB GALBRAITH

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, MOPS,MY,SN,ID

SUBJAT: LOS: MALACCA STRAITS

REF : STATE 222096

1. IN NOVEMBER 12 MEETING WITH PRESIDENT SUHARTO AND NOV 13 MEETING WITH ARMED FORCES DEPUTY COMMANDER SUMITRO, USING AS A POINT OF DEPARTURE USG URGING THAT INDONESIA STRONGLY OPPOSE POSSIBLE SEATING OF PRG AT LOS CONFERENCE (SEPTTEL), I TOOK OCCASION TO DISCUSS QUESTION OF PASSAGE OF US WARSHIPS THROUGH INTERNATIONAL STRAITS, I.E. STRAITS OF MALACCA.

2. URGING ADVISABILITY OF NOT BRINGING EXTRANEIOUS POLITICAL ISSUE SUCH AS PRG REPRESENTATION INTO LOS CONFERENCE, I NOTED TO SUHARTO THAT WE WERE FACING
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ENOUGH DIFFICULTIES IN FINDING SOME COMPROMISE THAT

WOULD ACCOMMODATE INDONESIA'S INTEREST IN ASSERTING ITS SOVEREIGNTY OVER ITS ARCHIPELAGO AND OUR VITAL INTEREST IN FREEDOM OF NAVIGATION IN INTERNATIONAL STRAITS. THIS WAS THE ONE ISSUE I KNEW OF WHICH COULD TROUBLE OUR GOOD RELATIONS, I ADDED. SUHARTO INDICATED HIS AGREEMENT WITH MY THESIS BUT DID NOT REFER (NOR DID I) TO THE RECENT HULLABALOO IN THE PRESS OVER THE PASSAGE WITHOUT NOTIFICATION OF THE CARRIER (HANCOCK) TASK FORCE THROUGH THE STRAITS OF MALACCA.

3. IN MEETING WITH SUMITRO, WHICH ALSO ATTENDED BY INTELLIGENCE COORDINATING BOARD CHIEF SUTOPO JUWONO AND ARMED FORCES SECURITY CHIEF KHARIS SUHUD, ALSO IN CONTEXT OF PRG ISSUE IN LOS, I STATED THAT PASSAGE OF HANCOCK HAD BEEN FOR MILITARY PURPOSES, IN RESPONSE TO SOVIET MOVES, AND THAT IT WAS NOT TO FORCE A TEST CASE ON THE MALACCA STRAITS. I REITERATED THE POSITION I TOOK WITH SUHARTO, ADDING THAT WE HOPE VERY MUCH OUR DIFFERENCES ON LOS MATTERS CAN BE RESOLVED AT THE FORTHCOMING CONFERENCE, AND THINK IT BEST UNTIL THEN NOT TO AIR OUR DIFFERENCES IN PUBLIC. IN THIS REGARD WE BELIEVE IT IS TO THE INDONESIANS' INTEREST AS WELL AS TO OURS FOR US NAVAL VESSELS TO BE ABLE TO TRANSIT FREELY INTERNATIONAL WATERWAYS.

4. SUMITRO FORCEFULLY REITERATED THE STANDARD INDONESIAN POSITION ON THE STRAITS OF MALACCA, ADDING THAT FONMIN MALIK COULD HARDLY HAVE REMAINED SILENT WHEN HANCOCK PASSAGE WAS FRONT PAGE NEWS. SUMITRO COMMENTED THAT MALIK'S PUBLIC REMONSTRANCE WAS MORE FOR THE RECORD THAN TO INDICATE SERIOUS DISPLEASURE (NOTE: THE GOI HAS NOT SENT A NOTE OF PROTEST). THE TENOR OF SUMITRO'S REMARKS WAS ONE OF AGREEMENT THAT THIS PROBLEM SHOULD BE KEPT OUT OF THE SPOTLIGHT, BUT HE STRONGLY ASSERTED THE IMPORTANCE OF THE INDONESIAN POSITION THAT THE STRAITS OF MALACCA INVOLVES INDONESIA'S TERRITORIAL WATERS.

5. COMMENT: WHILE WE MAY HAVE PLACED THE HANCOCK INCIDENT BEHIND US, WE MUST REALIZE THAT INDONESIAN

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FEELINGS ON THIS SUBJECT ARE MORE SENSITIZED THAN HERETOFORE. HENCE WE MUST EXPECT A SHARP REACTION THE NEXT TIME A MAJOR US WARSHIP TRANSITS THE STRAITS.
GALBRAITH

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